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DE RUEHRB #0368 0351315

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R 041314Z FEB 82

FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3904

INFO RUEIFBS/FBIS WASHDC

RUEHAB/AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN 0202

BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L MBABANE 00368

CONFIDENTIAL

ABIDJAN FOR FBIS

E.O. 12065: RDS-1 02/04/12 (MATHERON, RICHARD C), OR-M

TAGS: PEPR, PINS, WZ, US

SUBJECT: DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PUTS BLESSING ON FBIS BUREAU

1. (U) AMBASSADOR TOOK NEW FBIS/SWAZILAND BUREAU CHIEF [REDACTED] FOR FEBRUARY 4 COURTESY CALL ON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER NSIBANDZE. DPM IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL INFORMATION MATTERS IN CABINET, AND FOR THAT REASON IT WAS HE WHO SIGNED BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH USG LAST AUGUST.

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2. (C) DPM HAS NEVER BEEN MORE CORDIAL AND JOKINGLY REMARKED RIGHT FROM THE START THAT THIS MEETING "SHOULD HAVE TAKEN PLACE A YEAR AGO." CONFIRMING EMBASSY'S EARLIER ANALYSIS, DPM POINTED OUT FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT SWAZILAND GOVERNMENT HAD WANTED TO BE VERY CAREFUL ABOUT WHAT IT WAS GETTING INTO, AND FOR THAT REASON IT HAD TAKEN A LONG TIME TO DECIDE TO ENTER INTO FBIS AGREEMENT. IT HAD NOT WANTED TO LET IN SOMETHING WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE SENT OUT RIGHT AWAY, HE SAID. ONCE REASSURED BY INFORMATION ON FBIS ACTIVITIES IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD, SWAZILAND GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN HAPPY TO GIVE GO-AHEAD. FYI: INFORMATION PROVIDED BY EMBASSY ON FBIS/IVORY COAST AGREEMENT WAS PROBABLY CRUCIAL IN SWAZILAND'S FAVORABLE DECISION. END FYI. HE WENT ON TO WISH BRIGGS AND HIS STAFF EVERY SUCCESS IN THEIR JOB AND A WELCOME TO SWAZILAND.

3. (LOU) DPM SAID THAT GOVERNMENT WAS VERY INTERESTED IN RECEIVING FBIS PRODUCT AND, IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR'S QUESTION, HE WOULD DESIGNATE OFFICE (PROBABLY THAT OF DIRECTOR OF SWAZILAND BROADCASTING AND INFORMATION SERVICE) TO RECEIVE MATERIAL ON A DAILY BASIS. AS EXPECTED DPM ALSO WAS INTERESTED IN HOW MANY LOCAL AND EXPAT JOBS WOULD BE CREATED AND SEEMED ESPECIALLY PLEASED WHEN [REDACTED] INFORMED HIM THAT WE EXPECT ALL BUT ABOUT TWO OR THREE POSITIONS OUT OF [REDACTED] TO BE FILLED BY SWAZIS. MEETING ENDED WITH DPM LOOKING FORWARD TO ACCEPTING [REDACTED] GRACIOUS INVITATION TO VISIT FBIS BUREAU ONCE INSTALLATIONS ARE COMPLETED AND STAFF ARE AT WORK. MATHERON

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State Dept. review completed

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